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NSC BRIEFING - HAINAN

6 May 1953

GRADUAL DEVELOPMENT OF HAINAN SUGGESTS
LONG-RANGE, NOT IMMEDIATE, IMPORTANCE
TO CHINESE COMMUNISTS.

Island is 150 miles from Indochina.

It could be base for offensive against Southeast Asia; on defense, it would help protect South China coast against air attack.

ADMINISTRATION IS CENTRALIZED

One leader -- Feng Pai-chu -- has top three posts,
government, party and military.

He operates from Canton, seat of Kwangtung province
of which Hainan a part since "liberation" (April 50).

INTERNAL CONTROL CONSOLIDATED -- There may
be several hundred guerrillas in mountains, but they
are not active.

Fewer than 100 Soviet Russians on island, and no
evidence they contest Chinese control.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS STEADY BUT NOT
RAPID.

Peiping encouraging immigration from mainland
and overseas (Malaya rubber workers).

Major effort to dredge Haikou harbor, the prin-
cipal port. (Completion, April 1953)

Radiotelephone and internal phone and postal
circuits improved in late 1952.

They may have improved railroads and iron mines
(located in south). On 1 April, they shipped cargo
of iron ore, probably to Hungary.

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However, no intense activity. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] no rolling stock moving on railroads;

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[REDACTED]
no work begun on important ore port of Paso.

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MILITARY ACTIVITY HAS INCREASED, BUT NO
RAPID DEVELOPMENT AS MAJOR BASE.



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No military aircraft on island. A few civil aircraft
use the run-down fields.

Naval activities, mostly patrol to Canton, center at
Hailou. The reported submarine base at Yulin is
doubtful.

Military power is available in South China near
Hainan.



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If rotation from Korea continues present
pattern, there may soon be combat-trained armies
with Soviet equipment in South China.

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THE DEVELOPMENT IS DEFENSIVE, BUT NO
ACUTE CONCERN OVER INVASION.

Some evidence of fear of Chinese Nationalist
operation against island with American naval
support).

But gradual nature of whole activity--plus lack of
new activity since Formosa's "deneutralization"--
suggests concern over possible invasion is not acute.

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